

recycling's

# dirty dozen<sup>12</sup>

NEVER place these 12 ITEMS in a recycling bin or cart

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## 1 NO Plastic Bags

Plastic bags are a **SERIOUS** contaminant and jam sorting machines at recycling facilities. Plastic bags with a #2 that are clean, dry and empty may be recycled at participating grocery stores.



## 2 NO Plastic Bags with Recyclables Either

Workers have to slow the conveyor belts to open bags that contain recyclables. These inefficiencies waste time and money.



## 3 NO Shredded Paper and Other Small Items

Shredded paper and other small items often become litter before reaching the recycling center. Once there, they fall through the cracks of sorting machines, stick to belts and contaminate properly sorted material.



## 4 NO Scrap Metal

Scrap metal – such as steel, brass, iron and aluminum – cause excessive damage to recycling equipment. Take scrap metal to a scrap metal dealer or recycling center.



## 5 NO Hazardous Household Materials

Paint, automotive fluids, household cleaners and similar materials must be disposed of properly. Check to see if your county has a collection program or offers single-day collection events. If not, follow the instructions on the label.



## 6 NO Flattened Bottles or Cans

Sorting equipment separates “flats” (paper) from “rounds” (containers). When containers are flattened, the equipment mistakenly sends them to the paper side of the facility, contaminating the paper going to market.



## 7 NO Non-recyclable Plastics

Loose plastic lids, Styrofoam® and other plastic may not be recyclable where you live. Check with your local recycling program.



## 8 NO Caps/Lids on Glass Bottles or Jars

Metal lids can be removed and recycled loose in the bin or cart. Throw away plastic lids and caps from glass bottles and jars.



## 9 NO Liquids or Food

When bottles are compacted for shipping, liquids drip and splatter, creating a sticky, smelly mess. Empty and quickly rinse all containers before recycling.



## 10 NO Non-recyclable Glass

Glassware, ceramics, Pyrex baking dishes, light bulbs, fluorescent lamps, window glass and mirrors cannot be recycled. These types of glass often are treated with chemicals and have different melting points than traditional container glass (e.g., bottles and jars).



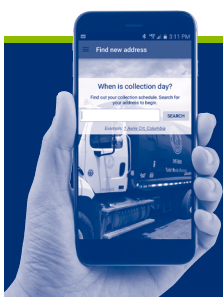
## 11 NO Rope-like Items

Water hoses, holiday lights, leather belts, etc., should not go in curbside bins or carts. These items wrap around machines. Holiday lights can be recycled at some scrap metal dealers.



## 12 NO Diapers or Bio-Hazardous Waste

Syringes and needles, diapers and other sanitary products **ARE NOT** recyclable and pose a risk to workers. To learn how to properly dispose of syringes and needles, visit [www.scdhec.gov/HomeAndEnvironment/Recycling/DisposingofNeedles/](http://www.scdhec.gov/HomeAndEnvironment/Recycling/DisposingofNeedles/).



Recycle more and recycle right with the **City of Columbia, SC Solid Waste app**. Download it for free on iPhone and Android or sign up at [ColumbiaSC.net](http://ColumbiaSC.net).



# recycling's MOST WANTED

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*Recycling has many benefits including conserving resources, preventing pollution, saving energy, reducing the need to build landfills and creating jobs. It is also easy. Here are common items that you should be recycling. Do your part! RecycleMoreSC!*

## Aluminum Cans

There is no limit on how many times an aluminum can – which is 100 percent recyclable – can be recycled. The aluminum can you toss into your recycling bin today may be back on the store shelf in just 60 days.



## Plastic Bottles, Jugs, Jars & Food Tubs

Households use about 45 pounds of PET plastic bottles (e.g., water, soft drink) and containers every year. Rinse if needed and keep the lids on the bottle.



## Steel Cans

Just like aluminum cans, steel cans can be recycled over and over again without compromising the quality of the steel. It also takes less energy to make new products out of recycled material than raw material.



## Juice & Milk Cartons

These cartons (for beverages needing constant refrigeration) can be recycled. It's easy. Rinse them. Empty them. Take the caps off and don't flatten.



## Magazines, Newspaper & Mixed Paper

These items – including telephone books and catalogs – all can be placed in your recycling container or taken to a convenience center.



## Cardboard Boxes

Keep it dry. Remove plastic wrap, peanuts and other packaging material. Flatten before placing in the container.



## Paperboard Boxes

This packaging includes cereal, tissue and shoe boxes. Remove plastic bags from the cereal boxes. Like cardboard, flatten before placing in the container.



## Unwanted Mail

One study reports that we receive more than 40 pounds of unwanted mail each year. Most of it can be recycled – but be aware of potential identity theft. Learn more. See the unwanted mail postcard at [www.recyclemore.org](http://www.recyclemore.org).



## 40by2020 Partnership

The **40by2020 Partnership** is a group of public and private stakeholders dedicated to sharing knowledge, coordinating resources and working together to help South Carolina meet or exceed its 40 percent recycling goal set for 2020. Partnership members include **PalmettoPride**, **Pratt Industries**, **Sonoco Recycling**, the **S.C. Beverage Association**, the **S.C. Department of Commerce** and the **S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control**.



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